

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

Claims 1-2 and 4-17 are allowed.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 04 April 2008 has been entered.

Terminal Disclaimer

2. The terminal disclaimer filed on 04 April 2008 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of patent application 09/075,613, which corresponds to US Patent 6,596,816, has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Examiner's amendment

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Albin J. Nelson on 23 June 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Begin amendment the claims

Replace claim 17 as follows:

17. (Currently amended) A process of claim [[1]] 10 wherein the percentage of ester groups converted to CONH-R¹-Z groups is 10% to 30%.

End amendment to the claims

Reasons for allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art does not teach or fairly suggest the claimed invention in view of applicants' response filed 04 April 2008. This examiner's amendment corrects the dependency of claim 17.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel S. Metzmaier whose telephone number is (571) 272-1089. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David W. Wu can be reached on (571) 272-1114. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

**/Daniel S. Metzmaier/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1796**

DSM